Pending cases in subordinate courts

4900. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in subordinate courts and the number of Judges to deal with the cases;

(b) the norms fixed for the number of Judges for 10 lakh population; and

(c) the action proposed to appoint more judges to dispose of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICEAND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, 2.03 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts as on 31.10.2001. At present, there is a sanctioned strength of 12,737 Judicial Officers in the subordinate courts. As on 1.06.2001, the working strength of Judges / Magistrates is 10,880 to deal with the cases.

(b) and (c) No such norms have been fixed. However, the Supreme Court has given directions to the Central Govemment in the case of All India Judges' Association & Ore. *Vs.* Union of India & Ore. directing that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States. The increase in the judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling up of the posts in a phased manner and this process should be completed and increased vacancies and posts should be filled within a period of five years.

The judgment of the Supreme Court has since been forwarded for the information and necessary action to the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs *vide* his letter dated 26th April, 2002 has written to all State Governments for taking early steps for filling up of vacancies in the subordinate courts on priority.

Recommendations of Indrajeet Gupta Committee Report

†4901. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Indrajeet Gupta Committee was constituted for election reforms;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.